THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
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SEGA®
COUNTDOWN TO GENESIS 5
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
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WELCOME TO THE PLANET MOBIUS--A WORLD UNIQUE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE SEGA GAMES--WHERE SONIC AND THE HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL!
CHANGING TEMPO
WOULD YOU RELAX?
WE'RE HERE TO HAVE SOME FUN!
UH HUH...
MARRY ME, KNUCKLES
MARRY ME KNUCKS
MACH ROCKS
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
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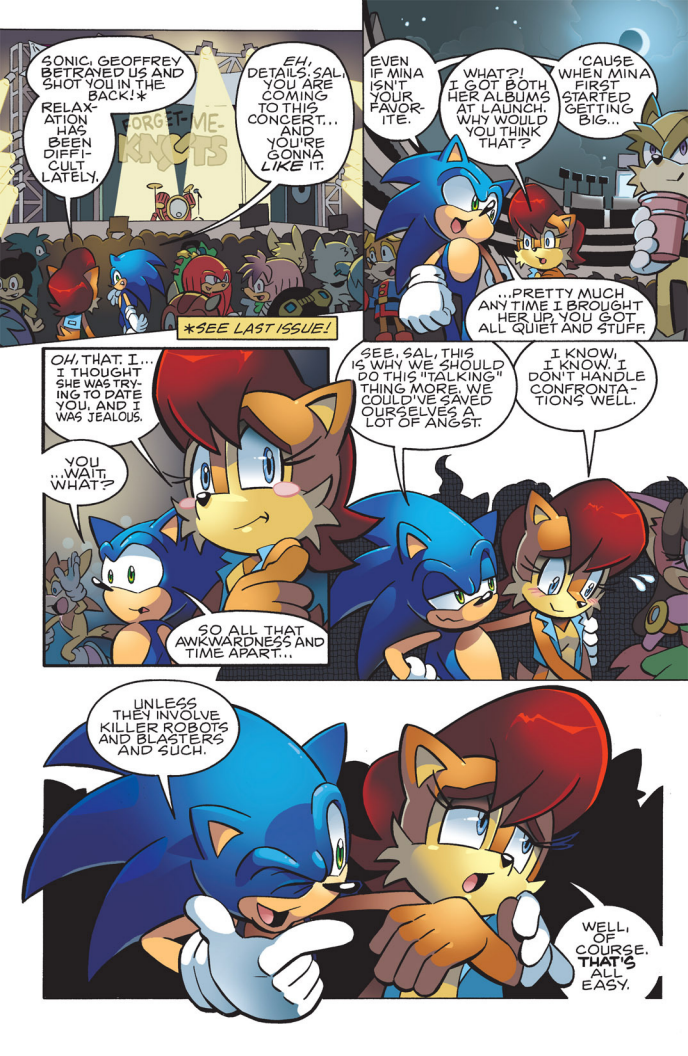
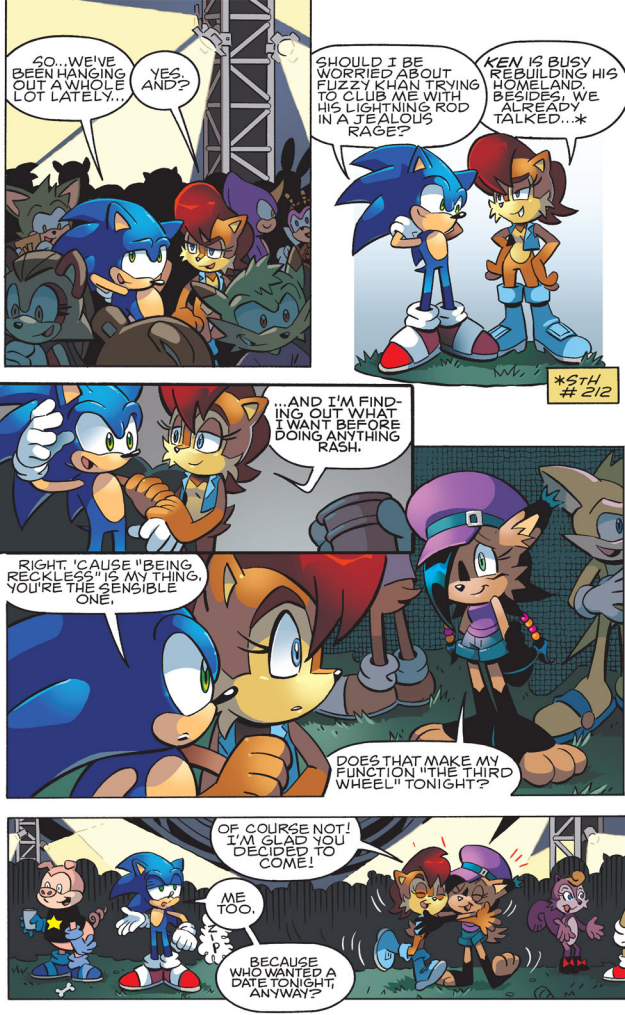
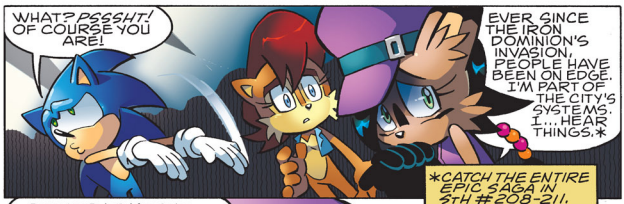
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU AND JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERO OF MOBIUS
SALLY ACORN TOMBOY PRINCESS
IXIS NAUGUS EVIL WIZARD
MINA MONGOOSE MUSIC SUPER-STAR
NICOLE A.I. CONSTRUCT
GEOFFREY ST. JOHN DOUBLE AGENT/TRAITOR


SONIC, GEOFFREY BETRAYED US AND SHOT YOU IN THE BACK!*
RELAXATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT LATELY.
FORGET-ME-KNOTS
EH, DETAILS, SAL. YOU ARE COMING TO THIS CONCERT... AND YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT.
*SEE LAST ISSUE!
EVEN IF MINA ISN'T YOUR FAVORITE.
WHAT?! I GOT BOTH HER ALBUMS AT LAUNCH. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
'CAUSE WHEN MINA FIRST STARTED GETTING BIG...
...PRETTY MUCH ANY TIME I BROUGHT HER UP, YOU GOT ALL QUIET AND STUFF.
OH, THAT. I... I THOUGHT SHE WAS TRYING TO DATE YOU, AND I WAS JEALOUS.
YOU ...WAIT, WHAT?
SEE, SAL, THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS "TALKING" THING MORE. WE COULD'VE SAVED OURSELVES A LOT OF ANGST.
I KNOW, I KNOW. I DON'T HANDLE CONFRONTATIONS WELL.
SO ALL THAT AWKWARDNESS AND TIME APART...
UNLESS THEY INVOLVE KILLER ROBOTS AND BLASTERS AND SUCH.
WELL, OF COURSE. THAT'S ALL EASY.

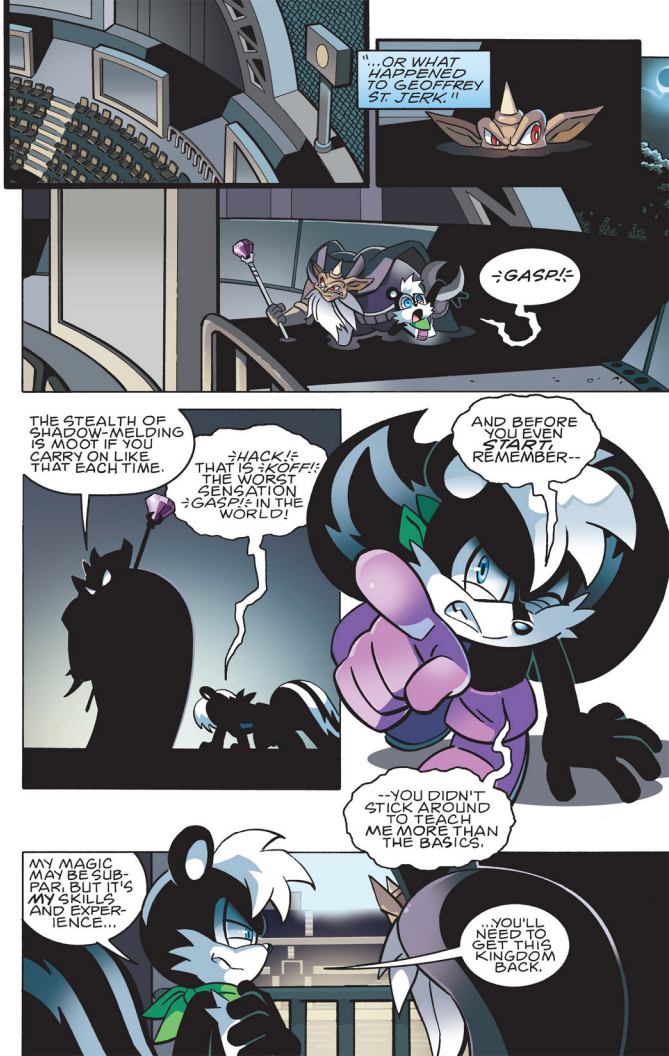

SO...WE'VE BEEN HANGING OUT A WHOLE LOT LATELY...
YES. AND?
SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT FUZZY KHAN TRYING TO CLUB ME WITH HIS LIGHTNING ROD IN A JEALOUS RAGE?
KEN IS BUSY REBUILDING HIS HOMELAND. BESIDES, WE ALREADY TALKED...*
*STH # 212
...AND I'M FINDING OUT WHAT I WANT BEFORE DOING ANYTHING RASH.
RIGHT. 'CAUSE "BEING RECKLESS" IS MY THING. YOU'RE THE SENSIBLE ONE.
DOES THAT MAKE MY FUNCTION "THE THIRD WHEEL" TONIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT! I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME!
ME TOO.
BECAUSE WHO WANTED A DATE TONIGHT, ANYWAY?

DIG THE NEW LOOK, BY THE WAY. HIGH POLY-GON COUNT, RIGHT?
HA-HA!
I THOUGHT I WOULD PROGRAM SOMETHING DIFFERENT...
...SINCE I'M STILL NOT SURE I'M WELCOME IN PUBLIC.

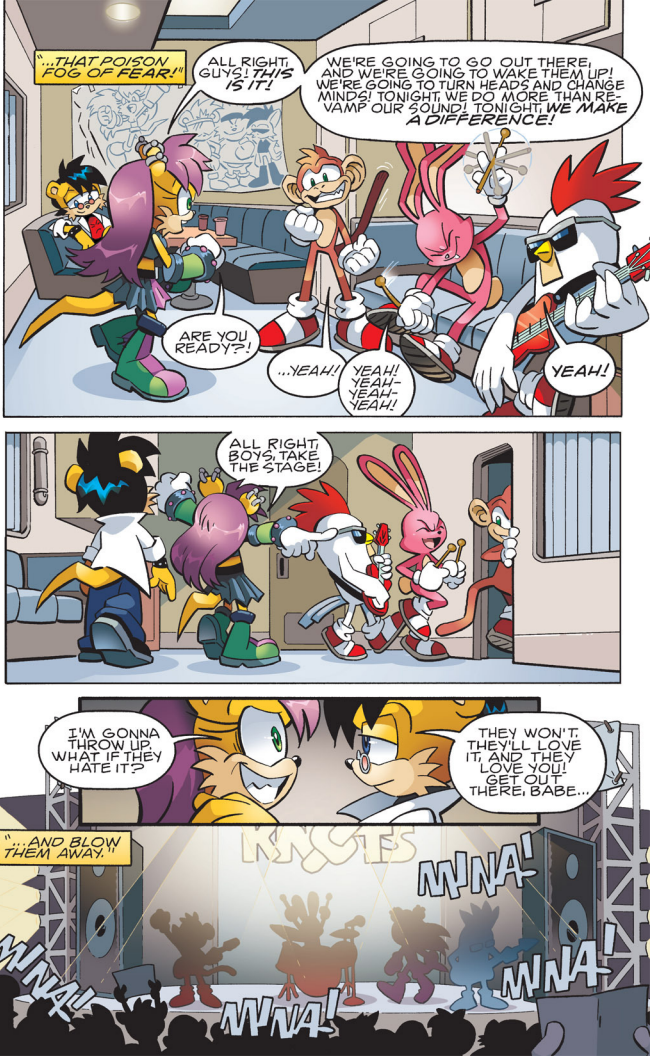

WHAT? PSSSHT! OF COURSE YOU ARE!
EVER SINCE THE IRON DOMINION'S INVASION, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON EDGE. I'M PART OF THE CITY'S SYSTEMS. I... HEAR THINGS.*
*CATCH THE ENTIRE EPIC SAGA IN STH #208-211.

BETWEEN THAT AND KNOTHOLE, THE CITIZENS ARE RIGHTFULLY JUMPY.** BUT YOU'RE A FREEDOM FIGHTER, NICOLE. THEY'LL CALM DOWN EVENTUALLY.
**STH #175-176.

EXACTLY. TONIGHT WE'RE JUST GOING TO KICK BACK, ENJOY THE SHOW, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE POLITICS, OR EGGMAN MISSING...
FORGET-ME-KNOTS


"...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO GEOFFREY ST. JERK."
-GASP!-
THE STEALTH OF SHADOW-MELDING IS MOOT IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THAT EACH TIME.
-HACK!- THAT IS -KOFF!- THE WORST SENSATION -GASP!- IN THE WORLD!
AND BEFORE YOU EVEN START, REMEMBER--
--YOU DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO TEACH ME MORE THAN THE BASICS.
MY MAGIC MAY BE SUB-PAR, BUT IT'S MY SKILLS AND EXPER-IENCE...
...YOU'LL NEED TO GET THIS KINGDOM BACK.

AND IT'S PRECISELY THOSE TRAITS THAT HAVE ME ADVISING YOU AGAINST DOING THIS, MASTER.
FIRST-HAND RECONNAISSANCE IS GOOD, BUT THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO DO IT.
THERE'S TOO HIGH A RISK OF BEING SEEN...
...AND MY PLAN DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
DO NOT LECTURE ME, BOY.
ER...NOT MY INTENTION, SIR. BUT THE PLAN...
IT IS A GOOD PLAN, BUT IT NEEDS MORE. WHAT WE NEED IS HERE TONIGHT. CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT IN THE AIR?
FEEL WHAT, SIR?
THE FEAR, GEOFFREY...


"...THAT POISON FOG OF FEAR!"
ALL RIGHT, GUYS! THIS IS IT!
WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT THERE, AND WE'RE GOING TO WAKE THEM UP! WE'RE GOING TO TURN HEADS AND CHANGE MINDS! TONIGHT, WE DO MORE THAN RE-VAMP OUR SOUND! TONIGHT, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
ARE YOU READY?!
...YEAH!
YEAH! YEAH- YEAH- YEAH!
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, TAKE THE STAGE!
I'M GONNA THROW UP. WHAT IF THEY HATE IT?
THEY WON'T. THEY'LL LOVE IT, AND THEY LOVE YOU! GET OUT THERE, BABE...
"...AND BLOW THEM AWAY."
KNOTS
NINA!
NINA!
NINA!
NINA!

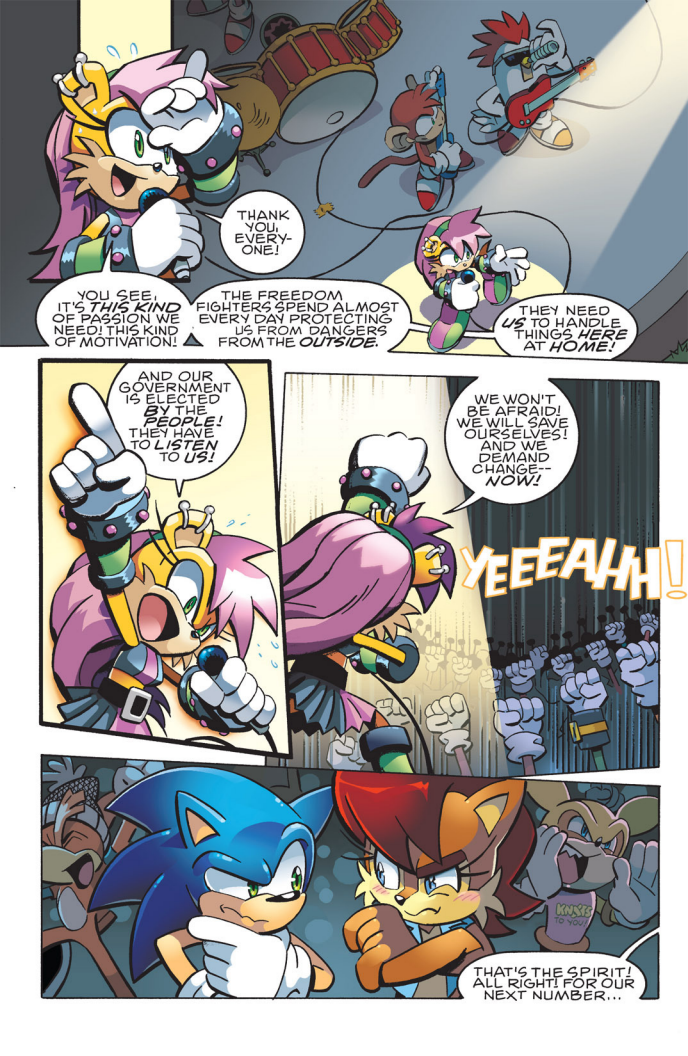
GOOD EVENING, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS!
YOU KNOW ME. YOU KNOW THE BAND. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE TREAT YOU'RE IN FOR!
NO NEED TO START OFF GENTLY! THESE PEOPLE CAN TAKE IT!
HIT IT, SHARPS!
AAAAAY
WHOA!
THAT'S NOT "OLD MINA"!
IT'S NOT, AND IT ROCKS!
WHOO!

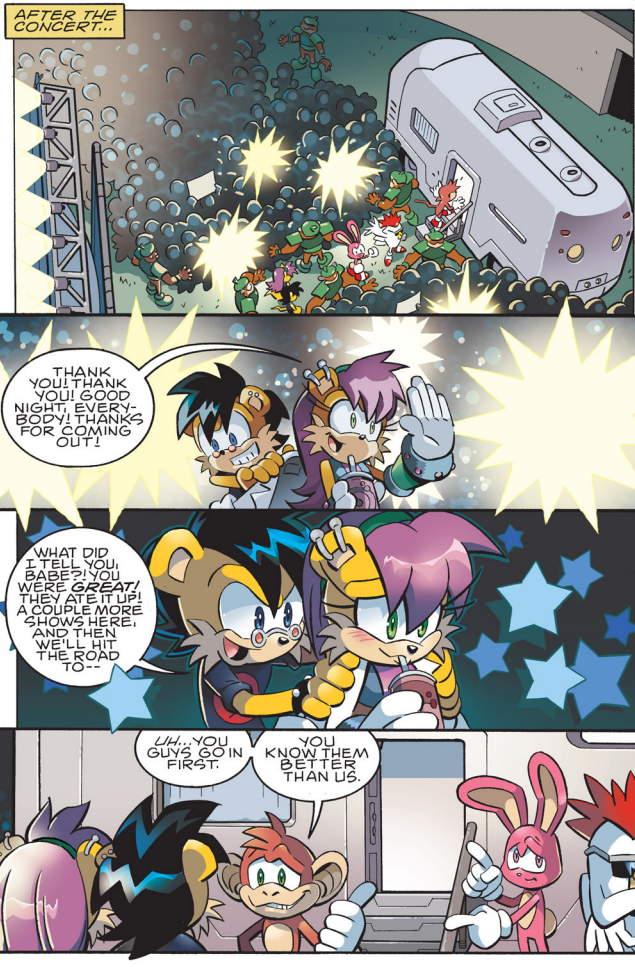
I LIE AWAKE--!
IN MY BED--!
JUST CAN'T SLEEP--!
FULL OF DREAD--
WILL THE NIGHTMARES COME FOR ME THIIIIIS TIME?
IN THE DAY--!
IN THE NIGHT--!
NEVER KNOWING--!
FULL OF FRIGHT--!
WHY WON'T ANYONE LIIIIIIIIIIIISTEN?
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE JUMPING AT SHAAAAAAAAAADOWS!
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE RUNNING AWAAAAAAAAY!
I WON'T BE AFRAID!
I'LL SAVE MYSELF!
I WON'T BE AFRAID!
I'LL SAVE MYSELF!

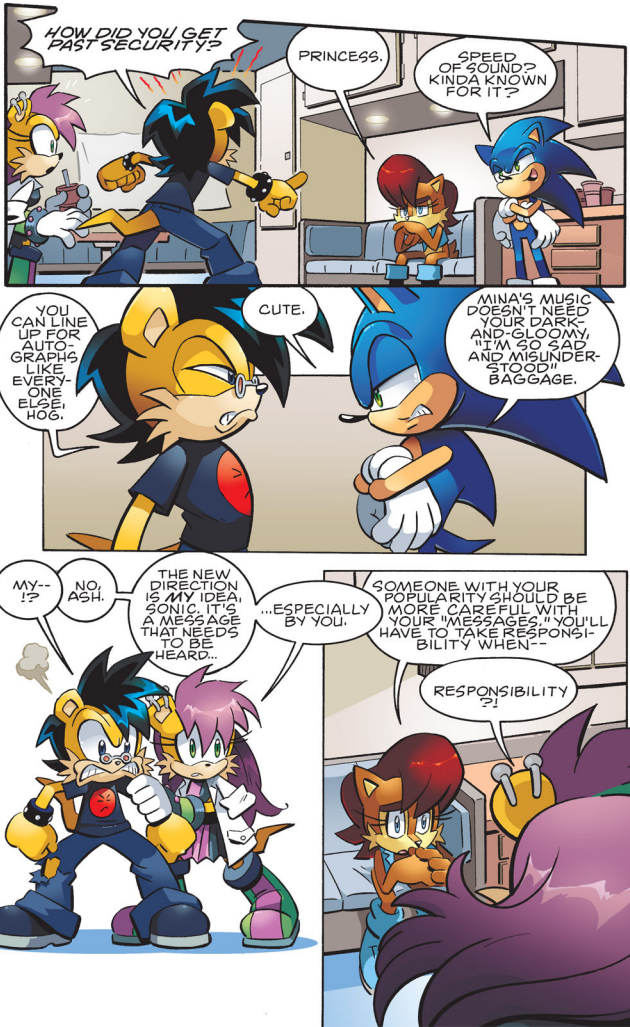
SHE'S EVERYWHERE--! EVERYTHING--! BUT HEROES AREN'T LISTENING--! WE'RE ALL LEFT PRONE--! UNPROTEEEEECTED!
IT'S PAINFULLY-- OB-VI-OUS--! THEY WON'T ACT--! IT'S UP TO US--! WE WON'T LIVE IN FEAR OF THE CIIIIIIIIITY!
WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE JUMPING AT SHAAAAAAADOWS! WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE RUNNING AWAAAAAAAAAY!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES! WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

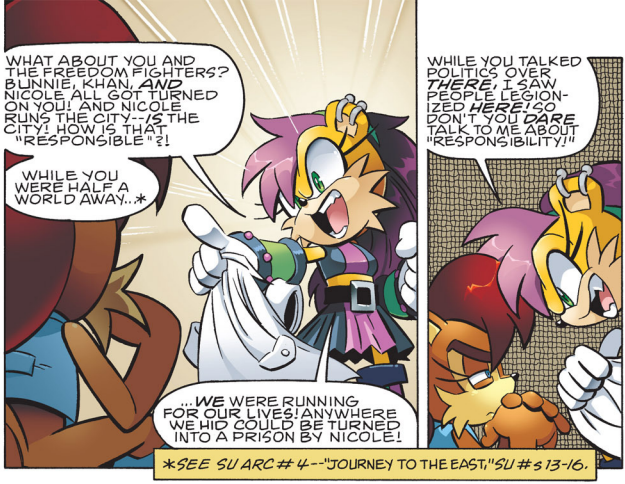
WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
...NICOLE?
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES!

CRIKEY. I KNEW THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE NANITES AND NICOLE, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THIS BAD.
IT WAS --AND IT WASN'T.
REGARDLESS, THIS WILL PLAY DIRECTLY INTO OUR--WAIT, WHAT?
HHHHHHHA HA HA! FEAR IS THE MIND-KILLER!
YOU...YOU'RE DOING THIS. YOU'RE LIGING YOUR MAGIC TO BLOW THEIR FEELINGS OUT OF PROPORTION.
JUST AS IN THE GREAT WAR...
...THEY WILL DO MORE THAN CALL FOR REFORM...
...THEY'LL BE BAYING FOR BLOOD!

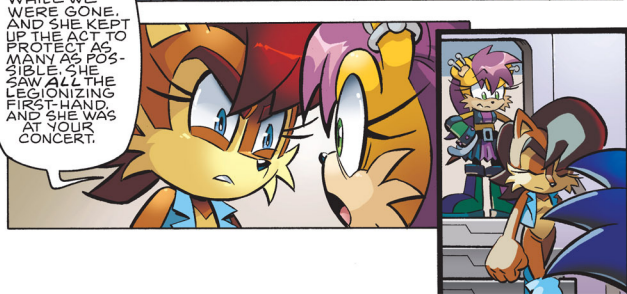

THANK YOU, EVERY-ONE!
YOU SEE, IT'S THIS KIND OF PASSION WE NEED! THIS KIND OF MOTIVATION!
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SPEND ALMOST EVERY DAY PROTECTING US FROM DANGERS FROM THE OUTSIDE.
THEY NEED US TO HANDLE THINGS HERE AT HOME!
AND OUR GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE! THEY HAVE TO LISTEN TO US!
WE WON'T BE AFRAID! WE WILL SAVE OURSELVES! AND WE DEMAND CHANGE-- NOW!
YEEEAHH!
KNNK!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! ALL RIGHT! FOR OUR NEXT NUMBER...

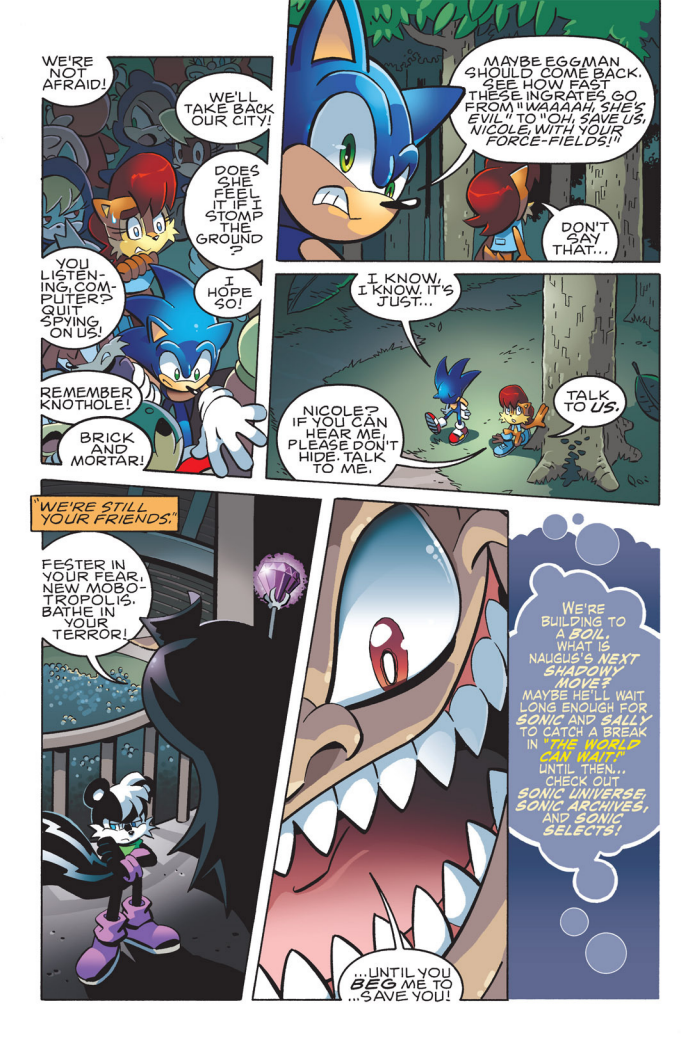

AFTER THE CONCERT...
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! GOOD NIGHT, EVERYBODY! THANKS FOR COMING OUT!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, BABE?! YOU WERE GREAT! THEY ATE IT UP! A COUPLE MORE SHOWS HERE, AND THEN WE'LL HIT THE ROAD TO--
UH... YOU GUYS GO IN FIRST.
YOU KNOW THEM BETTER THAN US.


HOW DID YOU GET PAST SECURITY?
PRINCESS.
SPEED OF SOUND? KINDA KNOWN FOR IT?
YOU CAN LINE UP FOR AUTO-GRAPHS LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE, HOG.
CUTE.
MINA'S MUSIC DOESN'T NEED YOUR DARK-AND-GLOOMY, "I'M SO SAD AND MISUNDER-STOOD" BAGGAGE.
MY--!?
NO, ASH.
THE NEW DIRECTION IS MY IDEA, SONIC. IT'S A MESSAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE HEARD..
...ESPECIALLY BY YOU.
SOMEONE WITH YOUR POPULARITY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR "MESSAGES." YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY WHEN--
RESPONSIBILITY?!


WHAT ABOUT YOU AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? BUNNIE, KHAN, AND NICOLE ALL GOT TURNED ON YOU! AND NICOLE RUNS THE CITY--IS THE CITY! HOW IS THAT "RESPONSIBLE"?!
WHILE YOU WERE HALF A WORLD AWAY...*
...WE WERE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES! ANYWHERE WE HID COULD BE TURNED INTO A PRISON BY NICOLE!
WHILE YOU TALKED POLITICS OVER THERE, I SAW PEOPLE LEGGINIZED HERE! SO DON'T YOU DARE TALK TO ME ABOUT "RESPONSIBILITY!"

*SEE SU ARC # 4--"JOURNEY TO THE EAST," SU #s 13-16.


SHE WAS IN FULL CONTROL WHILE WE WERE GONE. AND SHE KEPT UP THE ACT TO PROTECT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. SHE SAW ALL THE LEGIONIZING FIRST-HAND, AND SHE WAS AT YOUR CONCERT.


WE'RE NOT AFRAID!
WE'LL TAKE BACK OUR CITY!
DOES SHE FEEL IT IF I STOMP THE GROUND?
I HOPE SO!
YOU LISTENING, COMPUTER? QUIT SPYING ON US!
REMEMBER KNOTHOLE!
BRICK AND MORTAR!
MAYBE EGGMAN SHOULD COME BACK. SEE HOW FAST THESE INGRATES GO FROM "WAAAAH, SHE'S EVIL" TO "OH, SAVE US, NICOLE, WITH YOUR FORCE-FIELDS!"
DON'T SAY THAT...
I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S JUST...
NICOLE? IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PLEASE DON'T HIDE. TALK TO ME.
TALK TO US.
"WE'RE STILL YOUR FRIENDS."
FESTER IN YOUR FEAR, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. BATHE IN YOUR TERROR!
...UNTIL YOU BEG ME TO ...SAVE YOU!
WE'RE BUILDING TO A BOIL. WHAT IS NAUGUS'S NEXT SHADOWY MOVE? MAYBE HE'LL WAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR SONIC AND SALLY TO CATCH A BREAK IN "THE WORLD CAN WAIT" UNTIL THEN... CHECK OUT SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC ARCHIVES, AND SONIC SELECTS!

SECOND IMPRESSIONS

PART ONE

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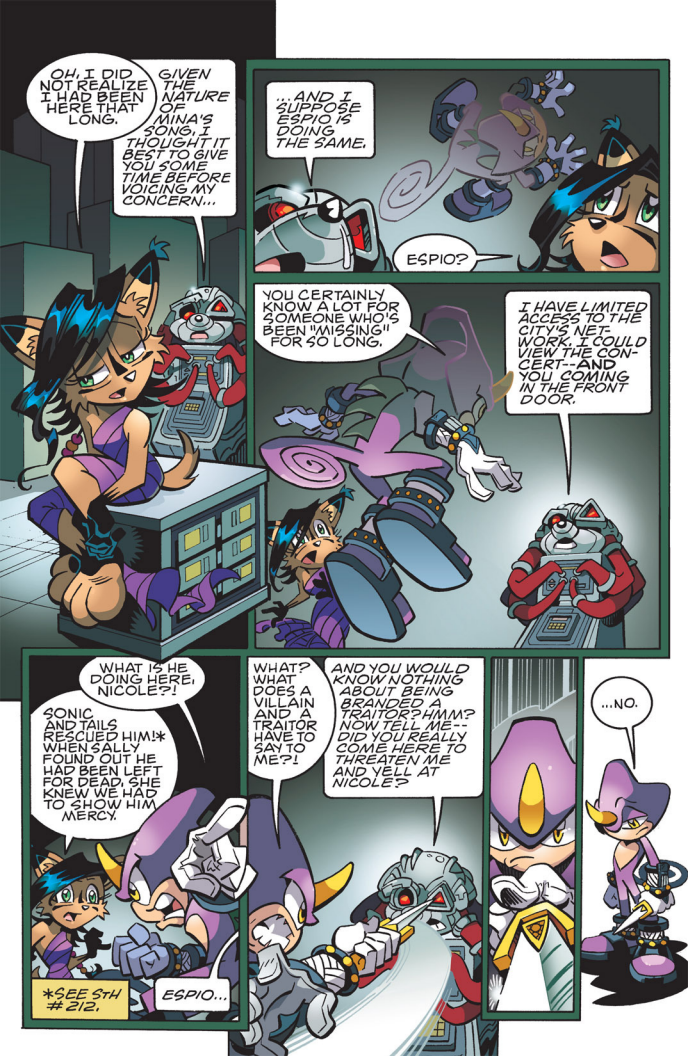
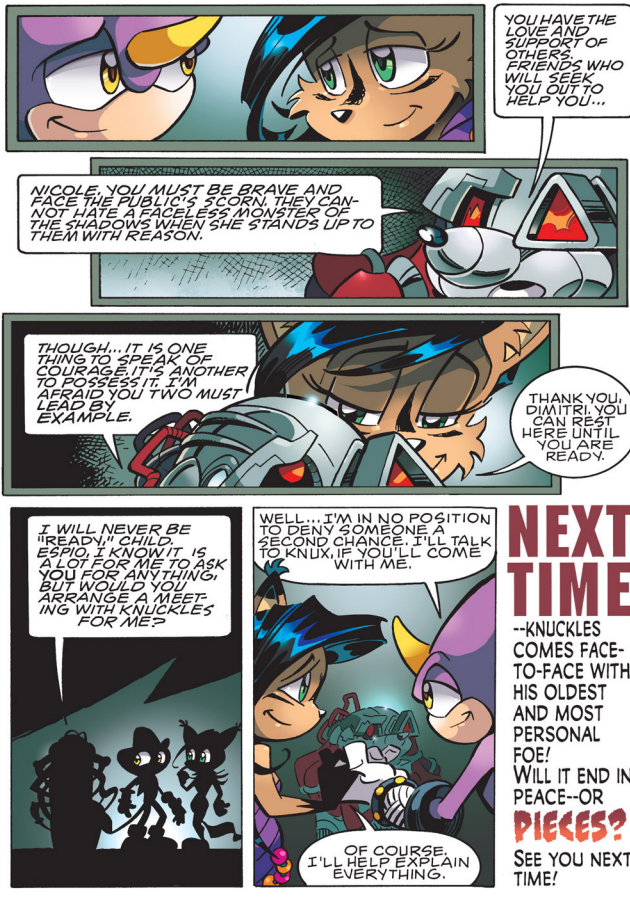

OH, I DID NOT REALIZE I HAD BEEN HERE THAT LONG.
GIVEN THE NATURE OF MINA'S SONG, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME BEFORE VOICING MY CONCERN...
...AND I SUPPOSE ESPIO IS DOING THE SAME.
ESPIO?
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW A LOT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN "MISSING" FOR SO LONG.
I HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CITY'S NETWORK. I COULD VIEW THE CONCERT--AND YOU COMING IN THE FRONT DOOR.
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE, NICOLE?!
SONIC AND TAILS RESCUED HIM!* WHEN SALLY FOUND OUT HE HAD BEEN LEFT FOR DEAD, SHE KNEW WE HAD TO SHOW HIM MERCY.
*SEE STH #212.
ESPIO...
WHAT? WHAT DOES A VILLAIN AND A TRAITOR HAVE TO SAY TO ME?!
AND YOU WOULD KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BEING BRANDED A TRAITOR? HMM? NOW TELL ME-- DID YOU REALLY COME HERE TO THREATEN ME AND YELL AT NICOLE?
...NO.

NICOLE, I SAW YOU RUN FROM THE CONCERT. I... I CAME TO SEE IF YOU WERE OKAY.
YOU DID? BUT... WHY...?
BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME HELP CHARMY.* AND BECAUSE THE IRON DOMINION USED US BOTH. I JUST... I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE EVERYONE'S TRUST.
OH... I-I MEANT... HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR INTO THE SYSTEM?
*SEE STH #169.
BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU ARE NO LONGER A MERE PROGRAM, CHILD. A PROGRAM WOULD NOT RUN AWAY IN FEAR, OR WEEP ON THE FLOOR. HE KNEW WHERE HIS FRIEND THE MOBIAN WOULD GO.
RIGHT OR NOT, THIS IS DIMITRI, NICOLE! HOW COULD YOU NOT SAY SOMETHING? DOES KNUCKLES KNOW?
ONLY A SELECT FEW KNOW. HE'S PREPARING HIMSELF TO FACE KNUCKLES.
SHE'S BEING KIND. IN TRUTH, I FEAR FACING HIM AT ALL. WE HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR A VERY LONG TIME... I--I HAVE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. I WORRY FOR YOU, NICOLE.

I AM AT A LOSS, DIMITRI!
I MADE THIS CITY FOR THE PEOPLE! I MADE IT SO I COULD BE WITH THEM!
INSTEAD, THEY THINK I WILL TRAP THEM WITH IT, OR WORSE.
YOU LOST CONTROL OF ENORMOUS POWER BEFORE, DIMITRI. HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THIS?
WHICH TIME DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS? WHEN YOU WERE ENERJAK, OR WHEN YOU WERE GRANDMASTER OF THE LEGION?
IN EITHER SCENARIO, I WAS TRYING TO EXERT MY WILL OVER REALITY, TO FORCE THINGS TO SUIT ME RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THEM AS THEY WERE.
AND NOW LOOK AT ME. NEVER TO BE WITH MY FAMILY AGAIN. MY PEOPLE LED ASTRAY BY MY OWN SON. MY LEGACY A TWISTED, WRETCHED THING SERVING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
I WAS SELFISH. YOU TWO HAVE SOMETHING THAT I HAD IGNORED...


YOU HAVE THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OTHERS. FRIENDS WHO WILL SEEK YOU OUT TO HELP YOU...
NICOLE, YOU MUST BE BRAVE AND FACE THE PUBLIC'S SCORN. THEY CANNOT HATE A FACELESS MONSTER OF THE SHADOWS WHEN SHE STANDS UP TO THEM WITH REASON.
THOUGH... IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK OF COURAGE. IT'S ANOTHER TO POSSESS IT. I'M AFRAID YOU TWO MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE.
THANK YOU, DIMITRI. YOU CAN REST HERE UNTIL YOU ARE READY.
I WILL NEVER BE "READY," CHILD. ESPIO, I KNOW IT IS A LOT FOR ME TO ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING, BUT WOULD YOU ARRANGE A MEETING WITH KNUCKLES FOR ME?
WELL... I'M IN NO POSITION TO DENY SOMEONE A SECOND CHANCE. I'LL TALK TO KNUX, IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME.
OF COURSE. I'LL HELP EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
NEXT TIME
--KNUCKLES COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OLDEST AND MOST PERSONAL FOE!
WILL IT END IN PEACE--OR PIECES?
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!